[8th March 1934

I.—SWEARING IN OF A NEW MEMBER.

Mr. R. Foulkes made the prescribed oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and took his seat.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Arms and Ammunitions

Cancellation of gun licences in South Kanara.

* 726 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a large number of gun licences have been recently cancelled in the district of South Kanara; if so, what the number is of the licences so cancelled;

(*b*) what the number is of licences cancelled on the ground that the licence-holders did not purchase cartridges during the current year;

(*c*) whether any notices were issued to the licence-holders or explanation taken from them before the licences were cancelled;

(*d*) whether the gun licences were cancelled by the Collector of South Kanara on his own initiative or under instructions from the Government; and

(*e*) whether the people of Puttur taluk complained to the Collector at the recent jamabandi regarding the cancellation of licences; if so, what action the Collector has taken on the same?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*e*) The Government have no information but have called for it.

(*c*) Neither under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, nor under the Indian Arms Rules, 1924, is it necessary to issue any notice to or obtain the explanation of licensees.

(*d*) No special instructions were issued by the Government to the District Magistrate of South Kanara.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know whether the Government have received any further information now? "

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—" Yes, Sir, we have received further information from the District Magistrate and I shall read it out to the House:—

(1) Number of licences for guns cancelled owing to death of licensees and other causes since August 1933 to 31st December 1933—423.

(2) Number of licences for guns cancelled for non-purchase of ammunition—273.

(3) At the ryots' conference at the jamabandi of Puttur taluk, the cancellation of licences was brought forward as a